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District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **SISTERS PLEAD GUILTY TO COMPASS BANK ROBBERY**

PHOENIX -- Cecillia Leslee Herzberg, 20, and Candace Marie Tooze, 24, both of Phoenix, pleaded guilty in federal district court in Phoenix to Bank Robbery. Herzberg entered her plea on September 8, 2006. Tooze pleaded guilty on September 20.

The two sisters admitted to robbing the Compass Bank located at 3150 South 48<sup>th</sup> Street in Phoenix on March 7, 2006.

According to the plea agreements filed in district court, Herzberg and Tooze made off with \$253,100 in the heist, which they jointly planned and participated in. Candace Tooze was a Compass Bank teller at the time of the robbery and arranged for an unusually large amount of money to be stocked in the bank's ATM machine. Tooze opened the bank on the morning of March 7, 2006, and entered along with her sister Cecilia Herzberg, who was disguised as a man with clothing covering her entire body and face. The two waited for a second teller to enter the bank. At that time Tooze acted as if she were a victim of the robbery. Herzberg told the second teller to open the vault along with Tooze and empty the cash, along with money from the ATM, into a bag she was carrying. Herzberg then told both Tooze and the actual victim to go to their knees and not to move for a period of time or else a bomb planted in the bank would be detonated. When law enforcement arrived Tooze did not tell them the truth and acted as if she were an actual victim of the robbery.

A conviction for Bank Robbery carries a maximum penalty of 20 years, a \$250,000 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, Judge David G. Campbell will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Sentencing is set before Judge Campbell on November 13, 2006.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Phoenix Police Department. The prosecution is being handled by Kurt M. Altman, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-0527-PHX-DGC  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-191(Tooze and Herzberg)

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